Alchemical Mysteries of the Incarnation Cycle

by Rav'nada YTHU (D. Ernest Wachter)

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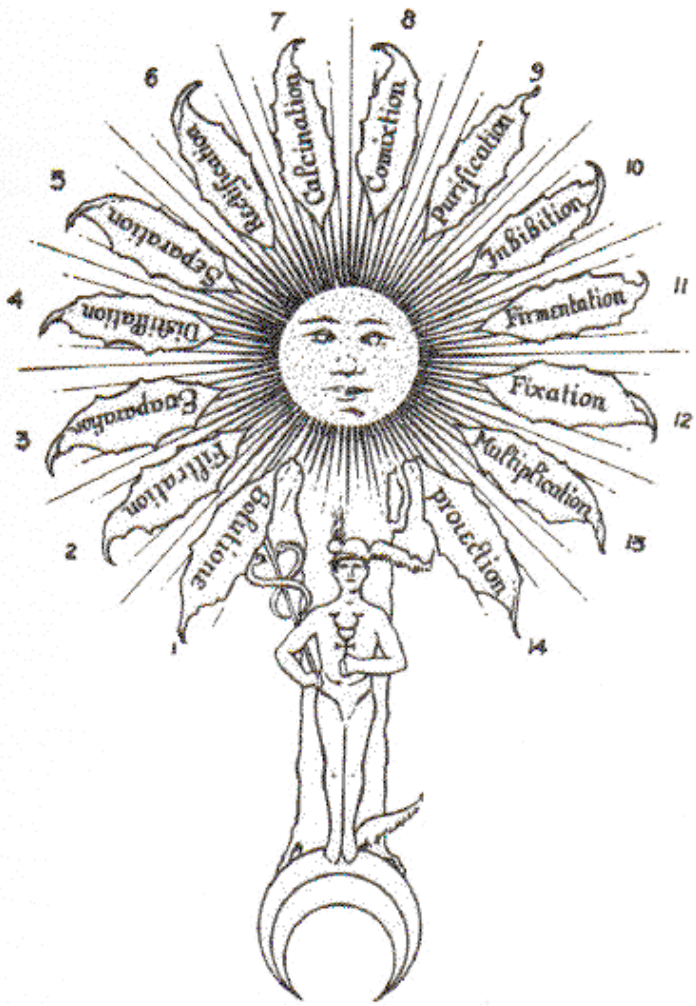
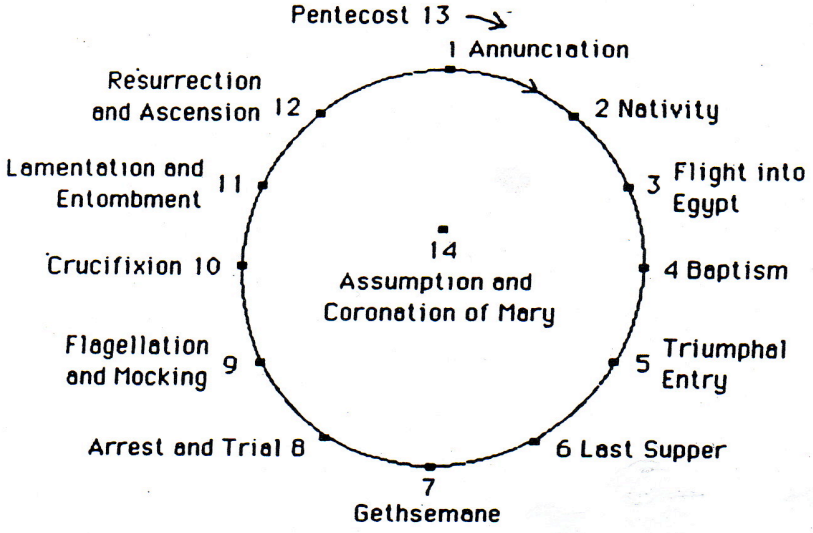
Sophia!

You of the whirling wings,
circling, encompassing energy of God:
you quicken the world in your clasp.
One wing soars in heaven,
one wing sweeps the earth,
and the third flies all around us.
Praise to Sophia!
Let all the earth praise her!
--Hildegard of Bingen



THE INCARNATION CYCLE



Samuel Norton's Phases of Alchemy		Edward Edinger's Stages of the Incarnation Cycle
Solution	1	Annunciation
Filtration	2	Nativity
Evaporation	3	Flight into Egypt
Distillation	4	Baptism
Separation	5	Triumphal Entry
Rectification	6	Last Supper
Calcination	7	Gethsemane
Commixtion	8	Arrest and Trial
Putrification	9	Flagellation and Mocking
Inhibition	10	Crucifixion
Fermentation	11	Lamentation and Entombment
Fixation	12	Resurrection and Ascension
Multiplication	13	Pentecost
Projection	14	Assumption and Coronation of Mary

EXERCISE:
CONTEMPLATE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STAGES OF ALCHEMY AND THE STAGES OF THE INCARNATION CYCLE. HOW DOES EACH ALCHEMICAL STAGE SHED NEW LIGHT UPON THE CORRESPONDING INCARNATIONAL STAGE AND VICA VERSA? HOW HAVE THESE PROCESSES BEEN OPERATIVE IN YOUR LIFE AND HOW ARE THEY OCCURRING NOW? USE THE PREVIOUS DESCRIPTIONS OF EACH STAGE AND THE FOLLOWING ILLUSTRATIONS OF EACH STAGE TO AMPLIFY YOUR MEDITATIONS.

THE LEAVES OF HERMES' SACRED TREE

In his *Key to Alchemy*, Samuel Norton divides into fourteen parts the processes or states though which the alchemical substance pass from the time they are first placed in the test tube until ready as medicines for plants, minerals or men:

1. Solution, the act of passing from a gaseous or solid condition into one of liquidity.
2. Filtration, the mechanical separation of a liquid from the undissolved particles suspended in it.
3. Evaporation, the changing or converting from a liquid or solid state into a vaporous state with the aid of heat.
4. Distillation, an operation by which a volatile liquid may be separated from substances which it holds in solution.
5. Separation, the operation of disuniting or decomposing substances.
6. Rectification, the process of refining or purifying any substance by repeated distillation.
7. Calcination, the conversion into a powder or calx by the action of heat; expulsion of the volatile substance from a matter.
8. Commixtion, the blending of different ingredients into one compound or mass.
9. Purification (through putrefaction), disintegration by spontaneous decomposition; decay by artificial means.
10. Inhibition, the process of holding back or restraining
11. Fermentation, the conversion of organic substances into new compounds in the presence of a ferment.
12. Fixation, the act or process of ceasing to be a fluid and becoming firm; state of being fixed.
13. Multiplication, the act or process of multiplying or increasing in number; the state of being multiplied.
14. Projection, the process of transmuting the base metals into gold.

Edward Edinger's 14 Stages of the Incarnation Cycle in the Christian Myth,
with relevant psychological amplifications

1. Annunciation: The angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will conceive the Christ-child through the power of the Holy Spirit. "Analysis should release an experience that grips us or falls upon us as from above, an experience that has substance and body such as those things which occurred to the ancients. If I were going to symbolize it I would choose the Annunciation." (Jung)
2. Nativity: The Christ-child is born. "The individual ego is the stable in which the Christ-child is born." (Jung)
3. Flight into Egypt: The Holy Family flees to Egypt to escape King Herod's slaughter of the innocents. "When a summit of life is reached, when the bud unfolds and from the lesser the greater emerges, then, as Nietzsche says, 'One becomes Two,' and the greater figure, which one always was but which remained invisible, appears to the lesser personality with the force of a revelation...--a moment of deadliest peril!" (Jung) "The ruling psychic authority (the current king) is fearful of being superceded by the future king. Thus the new-born greater authority is always in mortal danger from the ruling dominant of the psyche, just as the latter feels itself in mortal danger from the former." (Edinger)
4. Baptism: Jesus Christ is baptized by John the Baptist. "What is it, in the end, that induces a man to go his own way and to rise out of unconscious identity with the mass...? It is what is commonly called vocation...[which] acts like a law of God from which there is no escape.... Anyone with a vocation hears the voice of the inner [hu]man: he[/she] is called." (Jung)
5. Triumphal Entry: Jesus enters Jerusalem hailed as King and Messiah and proceeds to purge the Temple. "We must all do just what Christ did. We must make our experiment. We must make mistakes. We must live out our own vision of life." (Jung)
6. Last Supper: Jesus has his final supper with his friends and institutes the sacrament of the Eucharist. "If the projected conflict is to be healed, it must return nto the psyche of the individual, where it had its unconscious beginnings. He[/she] must celebrate a Last Supper with himself[/herself], and eat his[/her] own flesh and blood; which means that he[/she] must recognize and accept the other in himself[/herself]... Is this perhaps the meaning of Christ's teaching, that each must bear his own cross? For if you have to endure yourself, how will you be able to rend others also?" (Jung)
7. Gethsemane: Jesus prays in the garden and sweats blood as he contemplates his approaching arrest and execution. "The problem of crucifixion is the beginning of individuation: there is the secret meaning of the Christian symbolism, a path of blood and suffering." (Jung)
8. Arrest and Trial: Jesus is arrested and tried for his crimes. "He said 'My kingdom is not of this world.' But 'kingdom' it was, all the same." (Jung)
9. Flagellation and Mocking: Jesus is scourged at the pillar and humiliated. "The divine process of change manifests to our human understandings... as punishment, torment, death, and transfiguration." (Jung)
10. Crucifixion: Jesus is executed by crucifixion. "The reality of evil and its incompatibility with good cleave the opposites asunder and lead inexorably to the crucifixion and suspension of everything that lives. Since 'the soul is by nature

Christian' this result is bound to come as infallibly as it did in the life of Jesus: we all have to be 'crucified with Christ,' i.e., suspended in a moral suffering equivalent to veritable crucifixion." (Jung)

11. Lamentation and Entombment: The dead Jesus is mourned and laid to rest. "The God-image in man [and woman] was not destroyed by the Fall but was only damaged and corrupted ('deformed'), and can be restored through God's grace. The scope of the integration is suggested by the decencus ad infernus, the descent of Christ's soul to hell, its work of redemption embracing even the dead. The psychological equivalent of this is the integration of the collective unconscious which forms an essential part of the individuation process." (Jung)
12. Resurrection and Ascension: Jesus Christ rises from the dead and ascends to heaven. "I only know--and here I am expressing what countless other people know--that the present is a time of God's death and disappearance. The myth says he was not to be found where his body was laid. 'Body' means the outward, visible form, the erstwhile but ephemeral setting for the highest value. The myth further says that the value rose again in a miraculous manner, transformed. It looks like a miracle, for, when a value disappears, it always seems to be lost irretrievably. So it is quite unexpected that it should come back. The three days' descent into hell during death describes the sinking of the vanished value into the unconscious where, by conquering the power of darkness, it establishes a new order, and then rises up to heaven again, that is, attains supreme clarity of consciousness. The fact that only a few people see the Risen One means that no small difficulties stand in the way of finding and recognizing the transformed value." (Jung)
13. Pentecost: The Holy Spirit descends upon all of Jesus' followers, as it fell upon Mary during the Annunciation, and the Incarnation Cycle begins again. "Origen said of the Three Persons, that the Father is the greatest and the Holy Spirit the least. This is true inasmuch as the Father by descending form the cosmic immensity became the least by incarnating himself within the narrow bounds of the human soul. The 'littleness' of the Holy Spirit stems from the fact that God's pneuma dissolves into the form of little flames, remaining none the less intact and whole. His dwelling in a certain number of human individuals and their transformation into huioi tou theou [Sons of God] signifies a very important step forward beyond 'Christocentrism.'... On the level of the Son there is no answer to the question of good and evil; there is only an incurable separation of the opposites.... It seems to me to be the Holy Spirit's task and charge to reconcile and reunite the opposites in the human individual through a special development of the human soul." (Jung)
14. Assumption and Coronation of Mary: Mary is assumed body and soul into heaven and crowned Queen of Heaven, transforming the Trinity into a Quaternity. This event lies outside/within the Incarnation Cycle. "For our purposes the Assumption of Mary can be considered as the comprehensive, summarizing image that expresses the fruit of the incarnation cycle taken as a whole, namely, the coniuncio [conjunction of opposites]." (Edinger) "The dogmatization of the Assumptio Mariae points to the hieros gamos [sacred marriage] n the pleroma, ad this in turn implies... the future birth of the divine child, who, in accordance with the divine trend towards incarnation, will choose as his birthplace the empiral [hu]man. The metaphysical process is known to the psychology of the unconscious as the individuation process." (Jung)

SOLUTION & ANNUNCIATION

Solution: the act of passing from a gaseous or solid condition into one of liquidity. It is said that the divine child is conceived in water and born in air. There is an alchemical saying which advises: "Dissolve the matter in its own substance."
Latin: solutio; solvere = to loosen, to solve.

Annunciation: The angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will conceive the Christ-child through the power of the Holy Spirit. See Luke 1:26-38. In the Rosary meditations this joyful mystery is said to represent the virtue of humility. "Analysis should release an experience that grips us or falls upon us as from above, an experience that has substance and body such as those things which occurred to the ancients. If I were going to symbolize it I would choose the Annunciation." (Jung)

COMMENTARY:
Common themes are present in both Solution and Annunciation events/ processes.

***Male and Female*: In solution imagery there is the Sun King and Moon Queen. In the Annunciation imagery there is the Godd the Father sending his messenger Gabriel to the Virgin Mary.**

***Liquid*: In solution imagery the male and female are united in mercurial waters. The Annunciation, according to Orthodox tradition, occurs at a water well and the angel Gabriel is often depicted as giving a lily, a water flower, to the virgin. Also, in the Rosary the Joyful Mystery of the Annunciation is said to correspond with the virtue of humility. The word "humble" comes from Latin *humilis* low, humble, from *humus* earth. But even so, water, like earth, can be seen as a good symbol for humility, perhaps even better since it always takes the shape of whatever vessel in is put in. Consider how water is similar to the definition of the word "humble":**

1: not proud or haughty **:** not arrogant or assertive : not having or showing any feelings of superiority, self-assertiveness, or showiness

2: reflecting, expressing, or offered in a spirit of deference or submission

3 a: ranking low in a hierarchy or scale **:** **insignificant**, **unpretentious** **b:** not costly or luxurious. (Merrium-Webster Online).

***Holy Spirit*: In solution imagery a dove is sometimes present between the King and Queen. In the Annunciation account the power of the Holy Spirit overshadows the virgin.**

***Conception*: In the solution process, the divine child is conceived in the mercurial waters through the union of the king and queen. In the Annunciation account, the virgin conceives the Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.**

SOLUTION IMAGES

SOLVTIO PERFECTA

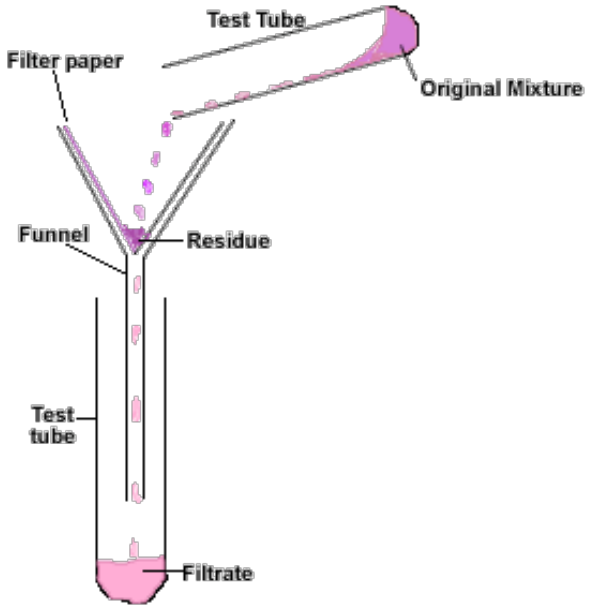
ANNUNCIATION IMAGES

FILTRATION & NATIVITY

Filtration: the mechanical separation of a liquid from the undissolved particles suspended in it.

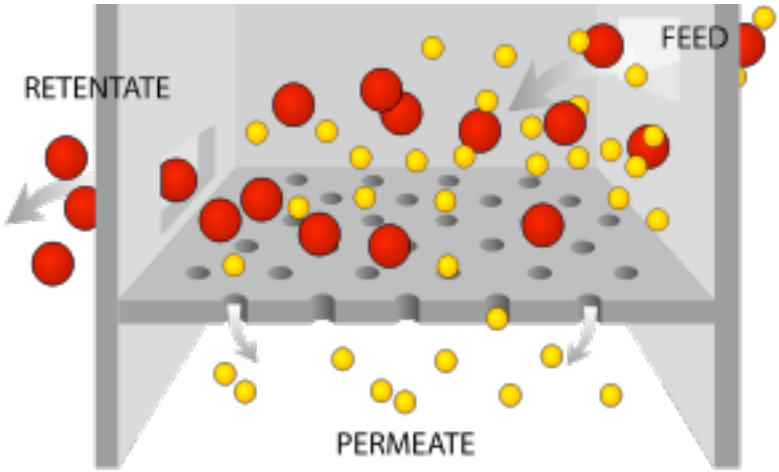
Nativity: The Christ-child is born. See Luke 2:1-7. In the Rosary meditations this joyful mystery is said to represent the virtue of poverty. "The individual ego is the stable in which the Christ-child is born." (Jung)

COMMENTARY
There is a transformation of the Godd-image occuring with the Incarnation. Jesus Christ is the Incarnation of Godd, minus the shadow of Godd, which is now all projected onto Satan. Christ is the Light of Godd without the Darkness of Godd, which has been completely filtered out. Christ is free of all sin, the pure filtrate of the Divine, the pure Goodness of Godd.



FILTRATION

NATIVITY



FILTRATION

NATIVITY

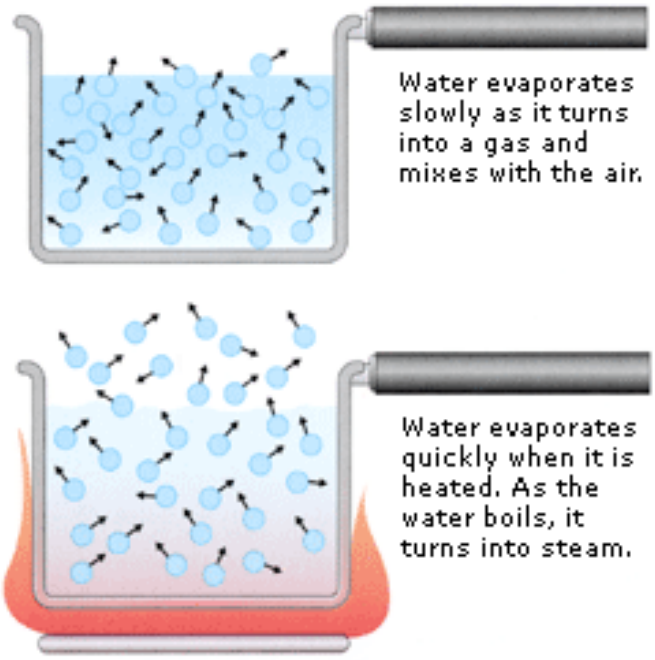
EVAPORATION & THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

Evaporation, the changing or converting from a liquid or solid state into a vaporous state with the aid of heat.

Flight into Egypt: The Holy Family flees to Egypt to escape King Herod's slaughter of the innocents. See Matthew 2:13-18. "When a summit of life is reached, when the bud unfolds and from the lesser the greater emerges, then, as Nietzsche says, 'One becomes Two,' and the greater figure, which one always was but which remained invisible, appears to the lesser personality with the force of a revelation...--a moment of deadliest peril!" (Jung) "The ruling psychic authority (the current king) is fearful of being superseded by the future king. Thus the new-born greater authority is always in mortal danger from the ruling dominant of the psyche, just as the latter feels itself in mortal danger from the former." (Edinger)

COMMENTARY
The link between evaporation and the flight to Egypt should be obvious. When the old king turns on the heat, the new king must hide. The Holy Family evaporates to Egypt, the hiding place where the new king finds safety. From the hermetic viewpoint Egypt is the source of the ancient sacred mysteries. In the face of persecution, find safety and shelter in the Sacred Mysteries of the Divine.

EVAPORATION



FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

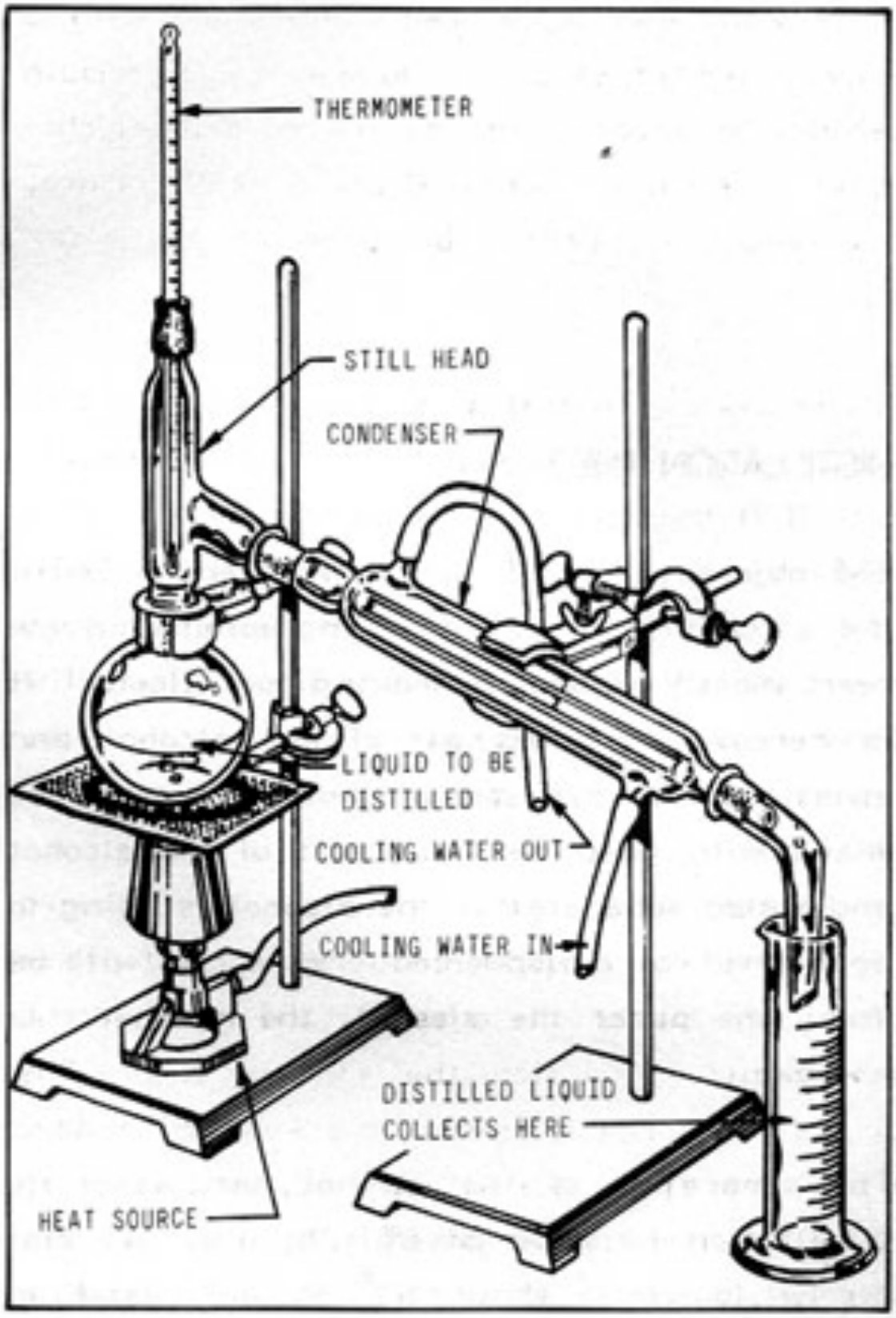
DISTILLATION & BAPTISM

Distillation, an operation by which a volatile liquid may be separated from substances which it holds in solution.

Baptism: Jesus Christ is baptized by John the Baptist. See John 1:29-34, Matthew 3:13-17, luke 3:21-22 and Mark 1:9-12. "What is it, in the end, that induces a man to go his own way and to rise out of unconscious identity with the mass...? It is what is commonly called vocation...[which] acts like a law of God from which there is no escape.... Anyone with a vocation hears the voice of the inner [hu]man: he[/she] is called." (Jung)

COMMENTARY

Interestingly, in the Christian myth, once Jesus receives his Baptism/Vocation, (once the volatile liquid is distilled) he begins his radical ministry which will lead to his arrest and execution for being an incendiary revolutionary. The wilderness fast should also be considered with the baptism event, as Jesus immediately enters the wilderness after his baptism to pray, fast, and face his temptations, ultimately discerning/distilling his vocation.



DISTILLATION

BAPTISM

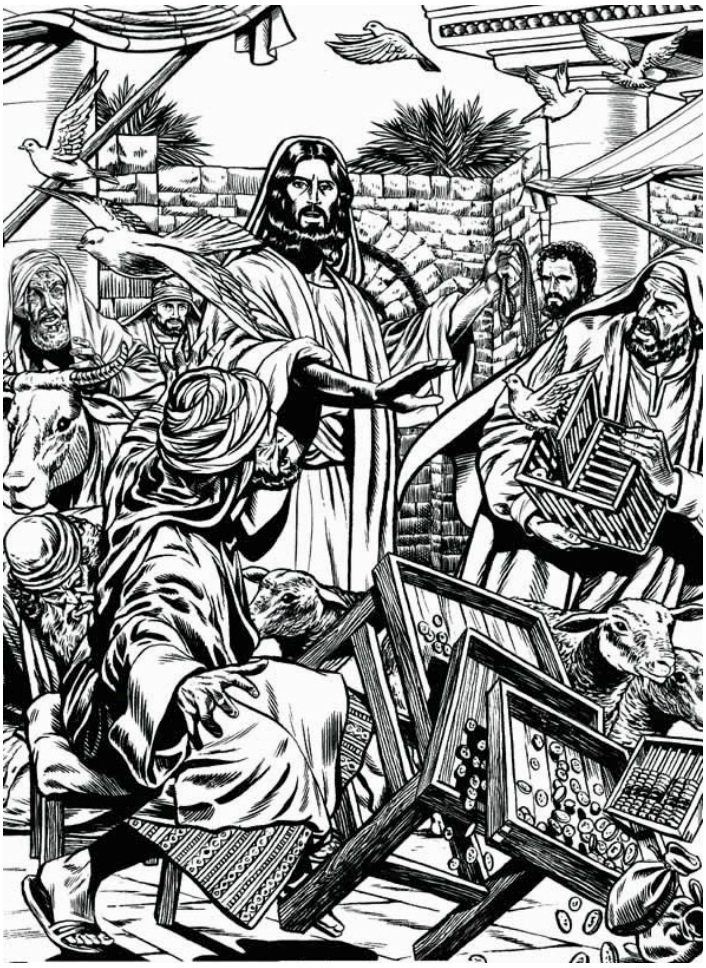
Separation & Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem/Temple Purging

Separation: the operation of disuniting or decomposing substances.

Triumphal Entry: Jesus enters Jerusalem hailed as King of Israel and proceeds to purge the Temple. See Matt. 21:1-16. "We must all do just what Christ did. We must make our experiment. We must make mistakes. We must live out our own vision of life." (Jung)

Commentary: The connection is not so obvious until the cleansing of the temple account, which comes immediately after the triumphal entry, is considered. When Jesus purges the temple he chases out the evil people buying and selling sacrificial animals, thus separating the evil from the good house of Godd. I relate the virtue of mindfulness to these processes. The practice of mindfulness is related to both separation and temple purging, in that one disidentifies from one's body, sensations, perceptions, mental formations, and volitions, thus making one's awareness/inner temple purified.

SEPARATION



CLEANSING THE TEMPLE AFTER THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

RECTIFICATION

LAST SUPPER

Rectification & The Last Supper:

Rectification: the process of refining or purifying any substance by repeated distillation.

Last Supper: Jesus has his final supper with his friends and institutes the sacrament of the Eucharist. See Mark 14:22-25, Luke 22:15-20, Matt. 26:26-27. "If the projected conflict is to be healed, it must return into the psyche of the individual, where it had its unconscious beginnings. He[/she] must celebrate a Last Supper with himself[/herself], and eat his[/her] own flesh and blood; which means that he[/she] must recognize and accept the other in himself[/herself]... Is this perhaps the meaning of Christ's teaching, that each must bear his own cross? For if you have to endure yourself, how will you be able to rend others also?" (Jung)

Commentary: The connection is obvious. Christ offers his body and blood for the rectification of the world. By receiving his body and blood we undergo alchemical rectification. The symbol of the green lion represents VITRIOL and anagram in latin which translates: visit the interior of the earth, rectify what you find and you will discover the (philosopher's) stone. The green lion devouring the sun represents the alchemical process and is an apt symbol for eucharistic devouring of the Son of Godd. In the previous symbol for rectification we see a holy grail receiving solar and lunar energies, which is a symbol also present in the last supper account as the cup of Christ's blood.

RECTIFICATION & THE LAST SUPPER

Calcination & Gethsemane

Calcination, the conversion into a powder or calx by the action of heat; expulsion of the volatile substance from a matter.

Gethsemane: Jesus prays in the garden and sweats blood as he contemplates his approaching arrest and execution. See Mark 14:32-42, Matt. 26:36-44 & Luke 22:39-44. "The problem of crucifixion is the beginning of individuation: there is the secret meaning of the Christian symbolism, a path of blood and suffering." (Jung)

Commentary: The connection is obvious. Both involve a burning process. We can image Jesus sweating out his blood as his heart burns and turns to powder.

CALCINATION

GETHSEMANE

Commixtion & Arrest/Trial

Commixtion: the blending of different ingredients into one compound or mass.

Arrest and Trial: Jesus is arrested and tried for his crimes. See Luke 22:47-23:25, Matt. 26:45-27:26, John 18:2-40, Mark 14:43-15:15. "He said 'My kingdom is not of this world.' But 'kingdom' it was, all the same." (Jung)

Commentary: Dissimilar things are united in these stages and something new emerges. Christ takes on the sins of others during his trial, when all the fears of his enemies are projected onto him, and he becomes a sinless sacrifice for our sins.

COMMIXTION

ARREST

Purification Through Putrefaction & The Flagellation and Mocking

Purification (through putrefaction): disintegration by spontaneous decomposition; decay by artificial means.

Flagellation and Mocking: Jesus is scourged at the pillar and humiliated. See Matt. 27:27-31, Mark 15:16-20, John 19:1-5. "The divine process of change manifests to our human understandings... as punishment, torment, death, and transfiguration." (Jung)

Commentary: The connection should be obvious. Nobody desires the purifying force of blackenings and whippings, but they are transformative alchemical processes.

PUTREFACTION

FLAGELLATION

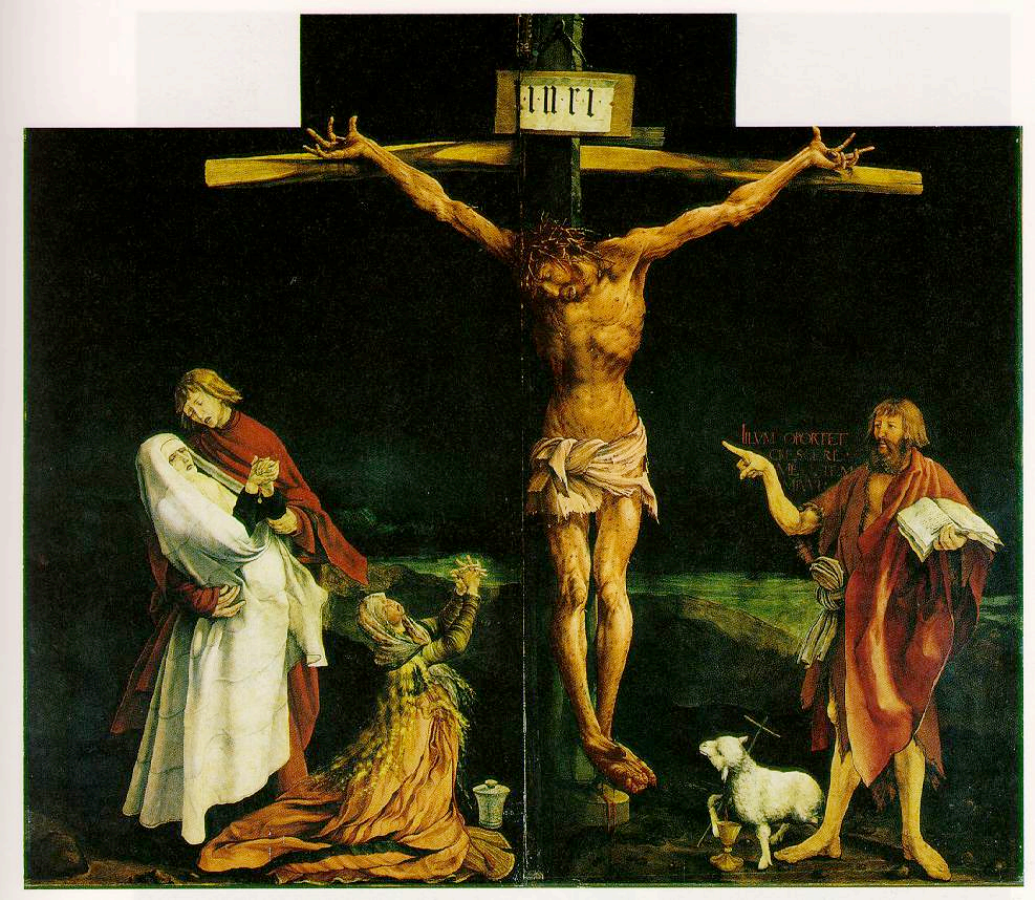
Inhibition & Crucifixion

Inhibition: the process of holding back or restraining.

Crucifixion: Jesus is executed by crucifixion. See Mark 15:22-41, Luke 22:33-49, Matt. 27:33-56, John 19:17-37. "The reality of evil and its incompatibility with good cleave the opposites asunder and lead inexorably to the crucifixion and suspension of everything that lives. Since 'the soul is by nature Christian' this result is bound to come as infallibly as it did in the life of Jesus: we all have to be 'crucified with Christ,' i.e., suspended in a moral suffering equivalent to veritable crucifixion." (Jung)

Commentary: The connection should be obvious. Self-denial is the spiritual virtue meditated upon in the Rosary during the sorrowful mystery of Crucifixion. Crucifixion is itself a physical restraining and alchemical inhibition corresponds perfectly.

INHIBITION



CRUCIFIXION

Fermentation & Entombment

Fermentation, the conversion of organic substances into new compounds in the presence of a ferment.

Lamentation and Entombment: The dead Jesus is mourned and laid to rest. See Mark 15:42-47, Matt. 27:59-61, Luke 23:50-56 & John 19:38-42. "The God-image in man [and woman] was not destroyed by the Fall but was only damaged and corrupted ('deformed'), and can be restored through God's grace. The scope of the integration is suggested by the decencus ad infernus, the descent of Christ's soul to hell, its work of redemption embracing even the dead. The psychological equivalent of this is the integration of the collective unconscious which forms an essential part of the individuation process." (Jung)

Commentary: The connection should be obvious. Just look at the pictures. New life will come from the fermentation/entombment of the heavenly body in the earth. The tears of lamentation from the community of Jesus can be considered the ferment.

FERMENTATION

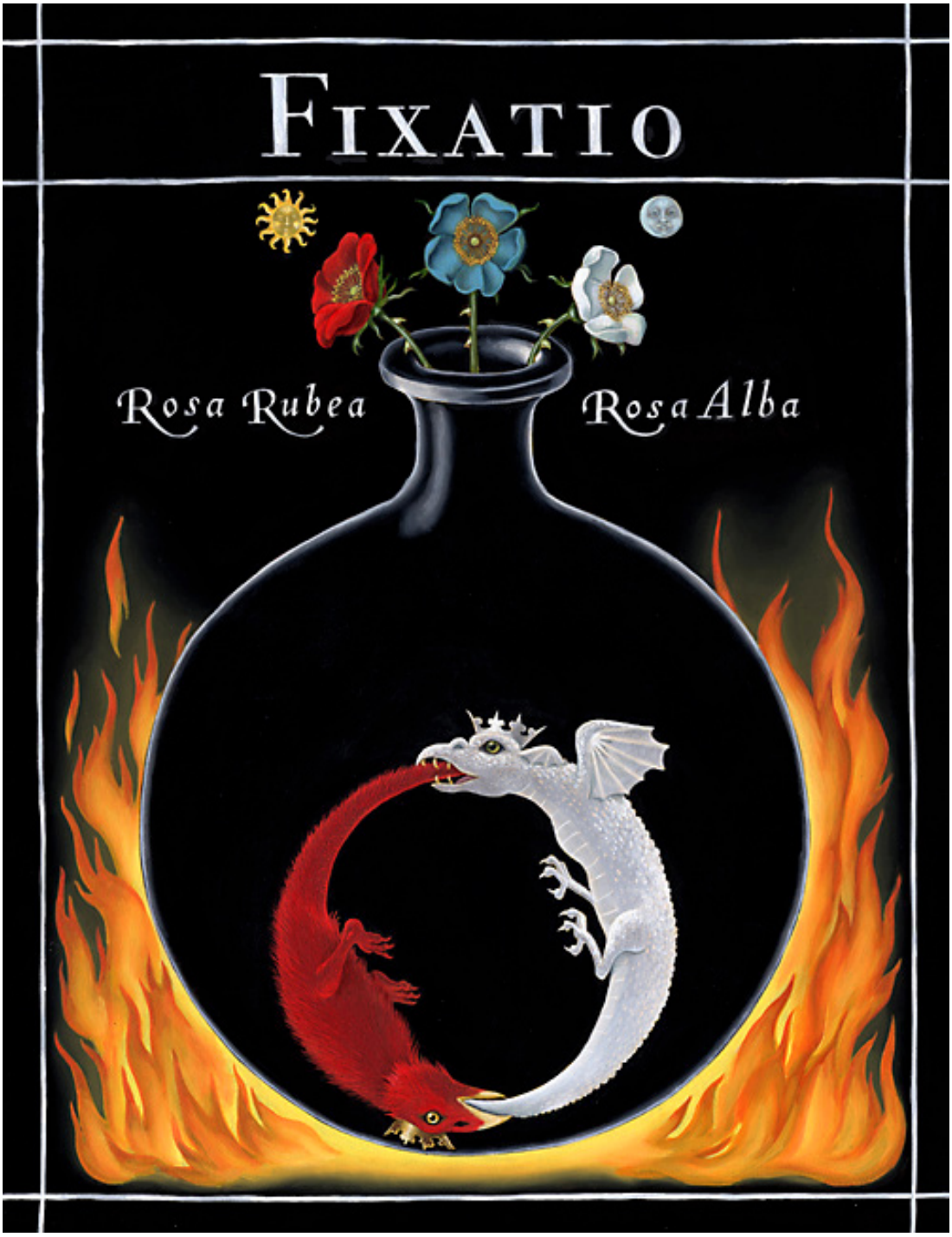
ENTOMBMENT

Fixation & Resurrection/Ascension

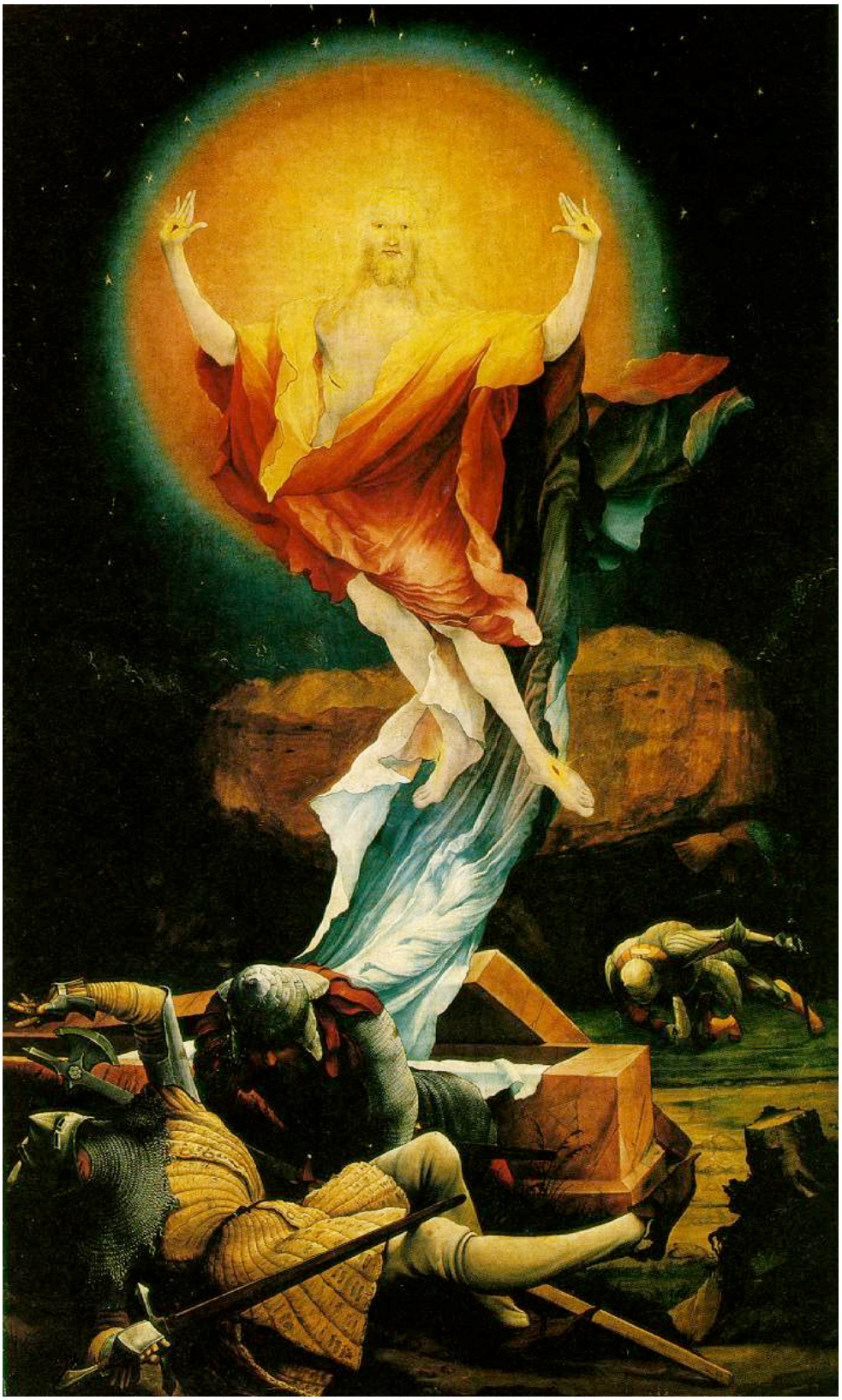
Fixation, the act or process of ceasing to be a fluid and becoming firm; state of being fixed.

Resurrection and Ascension: Jesus Christ rises from the dead and ascends to heaven. See Resurrection accounts in Mark 16:1-10, Luke 24:1-6, Matt 28:1-10 & John 20:11-18. See Ascension reference in Acts 1:11. "I only know--and here I am expressing what countless other people know--that the present is a time of God's death and disappearance. The myth says he was not to be found where his body was laid. 'Body' means the outward, visible form, the erstwhile but ephemeral setting for the highest value. The myth further says that the value rose again in a miraculous manner, transformed. It looks like a miracle, for, when a value disappears, it always seems to be lost irretrievably. So it is quite unexpected that it should come back. The three days' descent into hell during death describes the sinking of the vanished value into the unconscious where, by conquering the power of darkness, it establishes a new order, and then rises up to heaven again, that is, attains supreme clarity of consciousness. The fact that only a few people see the Risen One means that no small difficulties stand in the way of finding and recognizing the transformed value." (Jung)

Commentary: Obviously when Christ is resurrected and ascends to heaven he then has a new deathless body and he is eternally established in a divine abode, thus the comparison to the alchemical process of fixation, coming into a firm and fixed state, is quite appropriate.



FIXATION



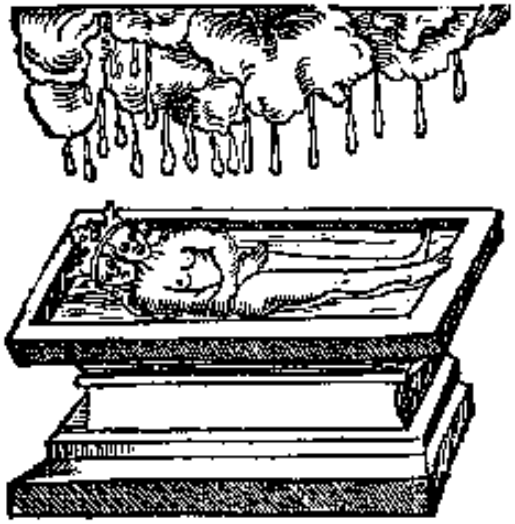
RESURRECTION

Multiplication & Pentecost

Multiplication: the act or process of multiplying or increasing in number; the state of being multiplied.

Pentecost: The Holy Spirit descends upon all of Jesus' followers, as it fell upon Mary during the Annunciation, and the Incarnation Cycle begins again. See Acts 21-13. "Origen said of the Three Persons, that the Father is the greatest and the Holy Spirit the least. This is true inasmuch as the Father by descending form the cosmic immensity became the least by incarnating himself within the narrow bounds of the human soul. The 'littleness' of the Holy Spirit stems from the fact that God's pneuma dissolves into the form of little flames, remaining none the less intact and whole. His dwelling in a certain number of human individuals and their transformation into huioi tou theou [Sons of God] signifies a very important step forward beyond 'Christocentrism.'... On the level of the Son there is no answer to the question of good and evil; there is only an incurable separation of the opposites.... It seems to me to be the Holy Spirit's task and charge to reconcile and reunite the opposites in the human individual through a special development of the human soul." (Jung)

Commentary: The connection here should be obvious. Multiplication occurs when the Holy Spirit descends upon Mary and the Apostles during Pentecost in that due to this alchemical/transformative event many more people other than Jesus Christ become carries of Godd's Spirit. The Church, the community of Spirit-filled individuals, is then and there born. Notice how the dew descending from the heavenly clouds in the multiplication illustration compares to the fire descending from the heavenly dove in the Pentecost illustration.



MULTIPLICATION

PENTECOST

Projection & Assumption/Coronation

Projection, the process of transmuting the base metals into gold.

Assumption and Coronation of Mary: Mary is assumed body and soul into heaven and crowned Queen of Heaven, transforming the Trinity into a Quaternity. See Psalm 45:9. This event lies outside/within the Incarnation Cycle and the Biblical narratives. "For our purposes the Assumption of Mary can be considered as the comprehensive, summarizing image that expresses the fruit of the incarnation cycle taken as a whole, namely, the coniuncio [conjunction of opposites]." (Edinger) "The dogmatization of the Assumptio Mariae points to the hieros gamos [sacred marriage] n the pleroma, ad this in turn implies... the future birth of the divine child, who, in accordance with the divine trend towards incarnation, will choose as his birthplace the empiral [hu]man. The metaphysical process is known to the psychology of the unconscious as the individuation process." (Jung)

Commentary: Projection is the alchemical process of transmuting base elements into gold and what happens in the Assumption/Coronation is that the Mother (representing matter) is divinized, transforming the Trinity into a Quaternity, the Philosopher's Stone.
Obviously matter is incorporated into the Goddhead through the Incarnation of Jesus but Jesus descends into matter and then ascends to the Goddhead. But Mother Mary is purely human to start with and then is assumed into heaven. And while Jesus Christ is a differentiated Godd-image in which the darkness of Godd has been filtered out and projected onto Satan, Mary, especially in the image of the Black Madonna, represents all matter and dark feminine energies and so her assumption and coronation makes it perfectly clear that the Godd image is undergoing another transformation to Quaternity, becoming more inclusive and more a conjunction of opposites and better symbol of wholeness. Mother-Father-Son-Spirit as a Godd-image is a more evolved image than Father-Son-Spirit and Mary's Assumption/Coronation is a very fitting symbol for the alchemical process which transforms base matter into the Philosopher's Stone.

PROJECTION

CORONATION

The 14 Stages of the Incarnation Cycle as Rosary Meditation

By using a 7 decade rosary one can meditate on the 14 stages of the Incarnation Cycle as a Rosary Meditation. The cycle can be divided into 2 phases: Mysteries 1-7 and Mysteries 8-14. The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit can then be assigned to each of the 7 Mysteries being contemplated in each phase in order to deepen one's meditation. In the same way various virtues are assigned to the regular Rosary Mysteries in Christian tradition. (See the author's Rosary Meditations.)

According to Christian tradition there are "Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit", sometimes enumerated as wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. The biblical origin of these seven gifts is found in Isaiah (11:1-3) where he is foretelling the qualities of the Messiah:

> *But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord, and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord.*
>
> [The ancient Greek and Latin translations of this passage read "piety" for the first "fear of the Lord"; this gives us our traditional seven gifts.]

In Catholic tradition these gifts are invoked as follows:
All powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
by water and the Holy Spirit
you freed your sons and daughters from sin
And gave them new life.
Send your Holy Spirit upon them
to be their helper and guide.
Give them the spirit of [l] wisdom and [2] understanding,
the spirit of [3] right judgment and [4] courage,
the spirit of [5] knowledge and [6] reverence.
Fill them with the spirit of [7] wonder and awe in your presence.
(Rite of Confirmation)

I correlate the Incarnation Mysteries and the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit as follows. While meditating on a specific Incarnation Mystery, consider how the related gift of the Spirit and alchemical process relates to it. One can also gain insight into each gifts of the Spirit by considering the 2 related Incarnational Mysteries and 2 related alchemical processes.

Awe & Wonder: Annunciation (solution)
Assumption (projection)

Reverence: Nativity (filtration)
Pentecost (multiplication)

Courage & Might: Egypt Flight (evaporation)
Resurrection/Ascension (fixation)

Knowledge: Baptism (distillation)
Entombment (fermentation)

Understanding: Triumphal Entry/Temple Purging (separation)
Crucifixion (inhibition)

Wisdom: Last Supper (rectification)
Flagellation/Mocking (putrefaction)

Counsel: Arrest/Trial (commixtion)
Gethsemane (calcination)

1) Awe & Wonder - Annunciation
2) Reverence/Piety - Nativity
3) Courage/Might/Fortitude/Strength - Egypt Flight
4) Knowledge/Gnosis - Baptism
5) Understanding - Triumphal Entry & Temple Purging
6) Wisdom/Absorption - Last Supper
7) Counsel/Right Judgement - Gethsemance
8) Counsel/Right Judgement - Arrest & Trial
9) Wisdom/Absorption -Flagellation & Mocking
10) Understanding - Crucifixion
11) Knowledge/Gnosis - Entombment
12) Courage/Might/Fortitude/Strength - Resurrection & Ascension
13) Reverence - Pentecost
14) Awe & Wonder - Assumption & Coronation

Concerning this order, let me say that it has already been noted by previous authors that Godd moves from wisdom to understanding to knowledge, while human beings move from knowledge (applied information) to understanding (applied knowledge) to wisdom (applied understanding).
Concerning Godd Proverbs 3:19-20 states, "By wisdom the Lord laid the earth's foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place; by his knowledge the deeps were divided, and the clouds let drop the dew." Obviously Godd first made the Right Judgement to create prior to laying the earth's foundations.
And it should also be apparent that for human beings Right Judgment can only come after a person has attained wisdom. So I thought maybe there is an ordering to all these gifts of the Spirit. I came up with the ordering listed above in 1-7: For a human, from Awe comes Reverence comes Courage to Know, to Understand & to attain Wisdom making one capable of making Righteous Judgements.
From 8-14 this sequence is reversed, enshrouding the entire Incarnation Cycle in Awe & Wonder. First Godd makes the Righteous Judgement to create, then applies Divine Wisdom, Understanding and Knowledge to birth a Mighty creation worthy of Reverence, filling the Goddhead with Awe & Wonder.

Let me close by proposing a final meditation on the correlation between Isaiah's 7 Gifts of the Spirit and Buddha's 7 Factors of Enlightenment. How does consideration of the factors of enlightenment deepen one's understanding of and appreciation for the gifts of the Spirit, and vica versa?

Isaiah's Seven	*Buddha's Seven*
Gifts of the Spirit:	*Factors of Enlightenment:*
Counsel	Mindfulness
Wisdom	Absorption
Understanding	Investigation of the Way
Knowledge	Bliss
Strength	Energy
Reverence	Equanimity
Awe	Tranquility

Bliss, Love and All Divine Fruits To You Beloved Reader!

Closing Prayer to Sophia

O Gentle, O Kind, O Blessed Sophia,
Thy children on earth call unto Thee.
We pray Thee, Beloved Mother, to cast forth
thy net of woven starlight.
Fling it wide across the ocean of the universe
to gather us home to the realms of Light.
Amen.
(--Anonymous)

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